

Appl. No. 09/852,889
Atty. Docket No. 8550
Amdt. dated March 29, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of January 27, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify the invention. Support for the amendment is found in the Specification on page 5, line 20. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 and 15-21 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a)

The Office Action states that Claims 1-11 and 15-21 are rejected as being unpatentable over EP 1035163 ('163) in view of Betrand et al. US 5985776 ('776). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that '163 and '776, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the material elements of the present invention. The present invention, as claimed, has an upper limit of molecular weight of 400,000 g/mol. The molecular weight lower limit in '163 is 500,000 g/mol. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by the teachings of '163 and/or '776 to develop the present invention.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims do not require any additional searching.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-11 and 15-21.

Respectfully submitted,

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